UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE
21st meeting
held on
Friday, 23 November 1990
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 21st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KARUKUBIRO-KAMUNANWIRE (Uganda)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 76: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS (continued)

This record is subject to correction.
Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/SPC/45/SR.21
6 December 1990
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

90-57324 3331S (E)

/...

best copy available

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 76: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS (continued) (A/45/217, A/45/330, A/45/502, A/45/572, A/45/594 and A/45/602; A/SPC/45/L.26;

1. Mr. GOULDING (Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs) said that as a result of recent events on the world political stage, Member States were increasingly calling on the United Nations for peace-keeping operations. In order to complete the numerous tasks entrusted to the Secretary-General by virtue of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the Committee's recommendation, the Secretariat had had to adopt a more rigorous approach, and reduce the proportion of improvisation inherent in peace-keeping operations. The Committee had before it the reports of the Secretary-General in response to the requests contained in General Assembly resolution 44/49.

2. The questionnaire which accompanied the report on requirements for United Nations peace-keeping operations (A/45/217) had been sent to the Member States in May 1990. The Secretariat intended to enter the replies into a computerized data base, which would give a clear picture at all times of the resources available, an important point in the light of the very large operation planned to take place in Cambodia. To date, only 22 States had sent in their replies. It was to be hoped that the rate of response would increase, if indeed it was intended to repeat the process every year.

3. With regard to the Secretary-General's report on the use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations (A/45/502), he was pleased at the renewed interest in the practice, which had proved its effectiveness during the 1960s, particularly in the Congo and in West Irian, and which would probably be widely used again in the operations in Cambodia and Western Sahara.

4. As the Secretary-General explained in his report on standard operating procedures for peace-keeping operations (A/45/602), a set of guideline standard operating procedures was being produced to reflect the procedures common to all peace-keeping operations, in order to ensure that they were applied in a uniform manner. The document, which in its present form amounted to 350 pages or so, would be supplied to the commanders of the various peace-keeping operations so that their views could be gathered and taken into account as the directives were finalized by the end of the year. Given the size of the document, it would not be translated or distributed as a report to the General Assembly, but could be consulted in the Military Adviser's Office.

5. The Secretary-General had drawn up a model status-of-forces agreement for peace-keeping operations (A/45/594). The model was based on established practice and was intended to be the basis for drafting the agreements between the United Nations and countries on whose territory peace-keeping operations were deployed. It would be distributed in the form of a report to the General Assembly.

(Mr. Goulding)

6. The training manuals, which the Member States could use as guidelines for their training programmes for peace-keeping (A/45/572), should be concluded by mid-December. For reasons of practical convenience, they would not be submitted in the form of a report to the General Assembly, but could be consulted in the Military Adviser's Office.

7. Several reports of the Secretary-General on financial and administrative questions had been submitted to the General Assembly, as recommended by the Fifth Committee. They had the objective of reducing the lapse of time between the decision to undertake a peace-keeping operation and the actual deployment of troops on the ground.

8. Since the Committee's study of the question the preceding year, no new operation had been launched. Mention should be made, however, of the monitoring of the elections in Haiti, since, although not strictly speaking a peace-keeping operation, it had nevertheless made use of military personnel to advise the Government on security measures to be taken to safeguard the elections. Furthermore, intensive planning was going on with a view to possible new operations, in particular in Western Sahara, Cambodia and El Salvador. This planning work had profited from better co-ordination within the Secretariat, thanks to various mechanisms put in place and supervised by the Secretary-General.

9. In conclusion, he supported the proposal of the representative of Canada that at the following session the Committee should reduce the range of topics studied, and thus be able to examine some of them more thoroughly.

10. Mr. POSSO (Ecuador) said that it was greatly to the credit of the United Nations to have successfully carried out peace-keeping operations in a world which the rivalry between the super-Powers had seemed to doom to an ineluctable bipolarity. Those operations had done much to establish their reputation for effectiveness and to consolidate their prestige, as evidenced by the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the peace-keeping forces in 1988.

11. With the end of the cold war, States would tend more and more towards peaceful means of settling their differences. Future peace-keeping operations would see greater emphasis being placed on civil and administrative tasks than on military ones, which would become more and more preventive in nature, incorporating into a single operation both peace-keeping and peace-making activities. The basic principles on which peace-keeping operations had always been based, in the words of the Secretary-General (A/44/1) still remained valid: a workable mandate, the consistent support of the Security Council, the co-operation of the parties in conflict, the readiness of Member States to make available personnel and resources, a geographically balanced and representative force, an effective and integrated United Nations command, and adequate financial and logistical support. Ecuador also agreed with the Secretary-General when he wrote (A/45/1) that such operations were "called for primarily in situations with a clear international dimension" and that such an operation did not "by itself generate movements towards a settlement".

(Mr. Posso, Ecuador)

12. At a time when new political realities were leading an increasing number of States to opt for peaceful means in settling their disputes, the United Nations, for its part, must make every effort to convince the international community that the use of force and the threat of force had outlived their time. It followed that peace-keeping operations must be strengthened, as was currently happening.

13. His delegation had noted with satisfaction the Secretary-General's report concerning standard operating procedures for peace-keeping operations (A/45/602), which should avoid what he referred to as "unnecessary and unwelcome divergences".

14. It was clear from the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations (A/45/330), which had done useful work by collating the proposals of Member States, that the Member States were agreed that financing, personnel, co-operation with host countries, the training of contingents and the use of high technology were the elements essential for the success of such operations. Such a convergence of views could be interpreted as an explicit mandate to establish a model agreement on the status of forces for peace-keeping operations, provide a stable basis for the financing of such operations while seeking new sources of funds, endeavour to enlarge the geographical basis for recruitment of contingents, strengthen co-operation between States and the Secretary-General, and prepare training manuals for peace-keeping operations.

15. In order to ensure genuinely global participation in such operations, international solidarity must provide the driving force in developing equitable and practical formulas, taking particular account of the comparatively greater effort required from the developing countries, as in the case of Ecuador with regard to the ONUCA operations in Central America.

16. In conclusion, he said he believed that peace-keeping could not be a matter merely of seeking to avoid war; by contributing to the development of international solidarity and to ensuring the primacy of law and the values of justice and freedom, while respecting and protecting human rights, peace-keeping operations also contributed to development and progress.

17. Mr. BOUTS'KO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that United Nations peace-keeping operations played an increasingly important role in international peace and security, as was evident from the success of the operations in Namibia and Central America and the efforts made to promote negotiations between Iran and Iraq. Other important issues must be solved in the future, such as the global settlement of the situation in Cambodia and the political settlement in Afghanistan and in Western Sahara. The adverse political situation in the Middle East must also be addressed. The Arab-Israeli conflict should be able to benefit from the potential peace-keeping role which the United Nations could play.

18. His country welcomed the work of the Special Committee, which had taken steps to perfect certain aspects of peace-keeping operations, to establish a registry of potential contributions by Member States of personnel and material, and to prepare a computerized data base. Such measures would facilitate rotation on a

(Mr. Bouts'ko, Ukrainian SSR)

more equitable geographical basis and enable the number of States participating in the operations to be increased. In that connection, the Ukrainian SSR had informed the Secretariat that the Ukrainian airline Ruslan was prepared to make available to the United Nations peace-keeping operations cargo aircraft capable of transporting heavy or bulky loads. The Ukraine was also paying its contributions to the operations and was willing to offer other services.

19. His country emphasized the importance, in considering such issues, of the international seminar on United Nations peace-keeping operations held at Moscow in May. Like the participants in the seminar, the Ukrainian SSR considered that the functions of such operations must be strengthened, and that they should be primarily preventive. The Secretariat should have at its disposal a system which enabled it to process data rapidly in a crisis situation. Within such a system, and with the agreement of the regional organizations, there could be United Nations observation posts and observer and fact-finding missions. It would also be worthwhile to establish regional centres for averting dangerous military situations. Peace-keeping operations could also be launched in order to ensure the safety of shipping, to prevent nuclear piracy and terrorism, and to ensure implementation of international agreements, particularly with regard to disarmament.

20. The United Nations operations could also help in assisting States affected by ecological or other natural disasters. United Nations personnel should supervise elections when a country needed guarantees of impartiality and objectivity in the electoral process. Such operations could also be used to guarantee the security of small Member States against any external threat. The operations should be financed by the small States themselves, which would benefit from such United Nations protection by a reduction in regular military expenditure. The General Assembly could adopt a resolution requesting the Secretary-General to study the possibility of using the peace-keeping machinery for ensuring the security of small States and to report on that question to the Assembly at its next session.

21. The Ukrainian SSR believed that all States must contribute to the financing of peace-keeping operations, but the possibility of other sources of financing could also be considered. However, funds should be used economically and rationally. His country was endeavouring to comply with its financial obligations and to pay the arrears in its contributions. The Ukrainian SSR took the view that the positive world situation was helping to eliminate hotbeds of tension and to settle regional conflicts. The Organization should therefore endeavour to strengthen its peace-keeping operations. On 16 July 1990 the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR had adopted a Declaration on the State Sovereignty of the Ukraine, in which it stressed that the Ukrainian SSR was a fully fledged member of the international community, was participating in the maintenance of international peace and security, and accorded the highest priority to international law. The Declaration reflected his country's faith in the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

READEX FICHE

22. Mr. HOQOQ (Afghanistan) noted that over three decades had elapsed since the establishment of the first United Nations emergency force and that peace-keeping operations had now become an integral component of the Organization's machinery for the maintenance of international peace and security. Recently, the importance of those operations had still further increased, and it appeared that the favourable world political climate would contribute to enhancing their effectiveness.

23. Despite the successes achieved, however, his delegation believed that the international community should strive to improve and expand the potential of the United Nations for maintaining peace-keeping operations in the most efficient manner and for preventing conflicts and crises. The improvement in international relations should enable the United Nations to respond to the new challenges. All possible measures should be taken within the United Nations system to enhance the effectiveness of the peace-keeping forces in the field, and the attitude of the host country was extremely important in that regard. Owing to the gravity of the situation in certain parts of the world, it was essential to increase the effectiveness of the United Nations machinery in order to prevent violations of international agreements, thereby facilitating implementation of the mandate of the peace-keeping operation in the field.

24. His delegation welcomed the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations (A/45/330), and the efforts made to resolve remaining conflict situations were praiseworthy. All the necessary steps should be taken to strengthen the effectiveness of peace-keeping operations as a means of preserving international peace and security and to make use of technological achievements to that end.

25. Mr. WAN Jingzhang (China) noted that, over the past year, the United Nations had played an increasingly important role in maintaining world peace and security. He was glad to note that UNTAG had successfully fulfilled its mission in helping Namibia to accede to independence and that ONUCA was continuing to play a constructive role in promoting the efforts made by the countries of Central America to restore peace and stability in their region. The outstanding achievements of peace-keeping operations had enhanced the prestige of the Organization and had won the acclaim of the international community. His delegation paid tribute to the troop-contributing countries and to all those who were dedicating their efforts to the cause of peace. In particular, it wished to express appreciation for the efforts of the Secretary-General and his staff in ensuring the smooth conduct of those operations.

26. At a time of major changes in the international situation, both new opportunities and challenges were emerging. It was thus only natural that attention was being focused on how to improve the efficiency of peace-keeping operations. In May 1990, the President of the Security Council had issued a statement on the question, thus indicating the importance attached to it by the international community. At previous sessions his delegation had put forward a number of proposals. In that connection, he wished to draw attention to two points. The first concerned the relationship between peace-keeping operations and peace-making. A peace-keeping operation was an essentially temporary measure

(Mr. Wan Jingzhang, China)

intended to prevent or check an escalation of hostilities between nations so as to create a favourable atmosphere and win time for the parties concerned to resolve their disputes through negotiation. However, such an operation should not be viewed as a substitute for a negotiated political settlement. Accordingly it must be complemented by peace-making endeavours. Experience had demonstrated that only by closely linking peace-keeping operations with peace-making was it possible to achieve genuine peace. Perpetual extensions of the mandates of peace-keeping operations simply complicated their task and imposed heavy burdens on various parties. Thus, although the successes of some peace-keeping operations were being celebrated, the trend towards perpetual extensions of the mandates of other operations owing to a lack of progress must not be overlooked. His delegation believed, on the one hand, that the international community should adopt practical and effective measures to encourage the parties involved to seek every means of settling conflicts, and, on the other hand, that the parties concerned must make full use of the valuable time gained by peace-keeping operations to overcome their differences by holding consultations and negotiations as soon as possible.

27. The second point related to financial difficulties. As peace-keeping operations faced more arduous tasks, the problem worsened, since it affected not only the immediate interests of troop-contributing States but also jeopardized the efficiency of such operations. The Organization must find solutions in order to ensure a sound financial basis for peace-keeping. Member States must pay their contributions in full and clear their arrears. Further, the sources of funding should be diversified and wealthier countries should be encouraged to make larger contributions. Operations must be planned and conducted with maximum efficiency and cost-effectiveness. If every peace-keeping operation could be as successful as that conducted in Namibia, the Organization's financial difficulties would be alleviated.

28. At its 1990 session the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations had reviewed various aspects of such operations and had formulated a number of conclusions and recommendations. Since the beginning of the year, the countries concerned had held various seminars on questions relating to peace-keeping operations. The discussions should help to resolve outstanding issues. The reports submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/49 would be very useful in future work. As a permanent member of the Security Council, China, which was committed to the maintenance of world peace and security, was willing to work together with other Member States to improve the effectiveness of peace-keeping operations.

29. Mr. KOTEY (Ghana) observed that between 1948 and 1990 the United Nations had launched 18 peace-keeping operations, including five between 1988 and 1989. The increasing involvement of United Nations forces in the settlement of disputes and the maintenance of peace attested to the tremendous confidence which the international community had in the Organization.

30. Ghana had demonstrated its commitment to contributing, in its modest way, to the preservation of international peace and security by participating, a few years

(Mr. Kotey, Ghana)

after attaining independence, in the Congo operation, as well as in a number of other peace-keeping operations and activities. His Government had made a number of police monitors and experts available to UNTAG, as well as civilian personnel for electoral monitoring in Namibia. Ghana was a major troop contributor to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). His Government had also recently been involved in the mediation efforts undertaken by the heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) aimed at restoring peace in Liberia. He trusted that the international community would fully appreciate the results of those endeavours, which had prevented further loss of life and destruction. He commended the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for its assistance to the thousands of refugees in camps in the subregion, including Ghana, and to those displaced within Liberia itself.

31. Although peace-keeping operations had helped to diffuse tensions and contain local and regional conflicts, his delegation trusted that the causes of conflicts leading to such costly operations would be gradually eliminated. As the world progressed towards global co-operation, he hoped that the international community would give priority to easing tension and reducing conflict. The current political climate should facilitate the search for solutions to those problems which arose.

32. The recommendations formulated by the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations in its report (A/45/330) on such issues as diversifying the sources of financing of peace-keeping operations, establishing political and legal principles, defining peace-keeping operations, training peace-keeping personnel and seeking solid institutional and administrative support, should be duly considered. His delegation endorsed, in particular, the recommendation that peace-keeping operations should be based on a sound and secure financial foundation and that their efficiency and cost-effectiveness should be increased. The Secretary-General had echoed that recommendation in his report to the Security Council on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (S/21406) in indicating that, although there had been a slight reduction in total unpaid assessments, they were still at the very high level of $307 million. That figure represented money owed by the United Nations to the Member States that had voluntarily contributed troops to serve in UNIFIL, often in conditions of danger and discomfort (para. 29). He hoped that unpaid assessments would be paid in order not to jeopardize such an important undertaking.

33. With regard to the vital issue of training, those Member States which had established national training programmes would do a great service to the international community by opening them up to other interested Member States. The offer made by Canada should encourage other countries to do likewise. The draft model status-of-forces agreement (A/45/594) was of the utmost importance, and his delegation urged host countries of peace-keeping operations to conclude such agreements.

34. With reference to paragraph E (Uses of peace-keeping) of the appendix to document A/45/330, he expressed the view that use of peace-keeping operations for tasks relating to monitoring of free, fair and democratic elections

(Mr. Kotey, Ghana)

(subparagraph (d)) and undertaking studies to examine the possibility of new fields of peace-keeping as the United Nations adapted to changing circumstances (subparagraph (r)) did not fall within the peace-keeping mandate provided for under Chapter VII of the Charter. In his report on the work of the Organization (A/45/1), the Secretary-General noted that, in essence, a United Nations peace-keeping operation was one which, mounted with the consent of the parties concerned, involved the deployment of international military personnel under an integrated command in order to stop or avert fighting and help to facilitate or implement a settlement. Supervision of elections should be seen essentially as a service to Member States whose internal political situation might necessitate United Nations involvement. The case of Namibia, a colonial situation in which the mandate of the United Nations could not be questioned, should not be used as a yardstick. In its report (A/45/330), the Special Committee clearly indicated that it had approached the question of establishing political and legal principles with a great deal of caution. The Organization's credibility and its new and enhanced role in maintaining international peace and security must not be compromised by misguided activities.

35. Mr. TURAY (Sierra Leone) said the work done by the United Nations in the peace-keeping sphere was impressive. Since 1948, the Organization had launched 18 peace-keeping operations, including five between 1988 and 1990, which had in large measure succeeded in limiting damage arising from conflicts, as well as in enhancing world peace and security. The Nobel Peace Prize awarded to United Nations peace-keeping forces in 1988 had been a fitting recognition of their valuable services in controlling and resolving conflicts.

36. It was now firmly established that the success of any peace-keeping activity depended not only on the consent and co-operation of the parties involved but also on other important factors such as, inter alia, a precise and workable mandate, the consistent support of the Security Council, the readiness of Member States to volunteer personnel and adequate financial arrangements. Such factors would assume still greater importance in the coming years as the very concept of peace-keeping became transformed in the evolving international political climate.

37. It was to be deplored that the international community, preoccupied as it was by the Gulf crisis, devoted only scant attention to the critical situation in Liberia. In addition to massive destruction of property and the sufferings of Liberian people, there was also a massive flow of refugees into neighbouring countries, including Sierra Leone, whose economies were sorely stretched as a result. The situation had prompted the Heads of State of the Economic Community of the West African States to take an initiative in line with Article 52 of the Charter of the United Nations with the aim of stopping the conflict and restoring peace in Liberia. All peace-loving States were invited to support the ECOWAS initiative. In that connection, he welcomed the Secretary-General's action of sending a technical survey mission to the area and initiating essential relief operations.

(Mr. Turay, Sierra Leone)

38. His delegation urged the Secretary-General to continue to seek means of streamlining the operations of peace-keeping forces and making them more cost-effective. It was encouraging to note that several delegations speaking in the present debate had indicated their willingness to participate in peace-keeping operations. The video guide on United Nations peace-keeping operations prepared by the Department of Information for use in secondary schools would also be of value.

39. Launching peace-keeping operations and adopting resolutions were not, in themselves, sufficient to end a dispute; the consent of the parties to the conflict was an essential ingredient of conflict resolution. Member States had an obligation to ensure that future peace-keeping efforts were even more effectively initiated and better managed than current ones so that the United Nations might meet the increased demands it would have to face in that field.

40. Mr. NEJEDLY (Czechoslovakia) said that thanks to the positive changes taking place in the international climate, the United Nations could at long last become a co-ordinating centre for the international community's efforts aimed at safeguarding collective security. The Organization's stand on the Iraqi aggression showed that it was returning to its real mission.

41. Mr. KADRAT (Iraq), speaking on a point of order, requested the Chairman to invite the representative of Czechoslovakia to confine his remarks to the item under consideration, namely, peace-keeping operations.

42. Mr. NEJEDLY (Czechsolovakia) said that his delegation considered the situation in the Persian Gulf to be connected with the question of peace-keeping operations and maintained its position on the matter. Although peace-keeping operations were not explicitly mentioned in the Charter, they had developed into a very useful and effective tool. The successful accomplishment of the UNTAG operation in Namibia, in which Czechoslovakia had participated by sending 20 military observers, and the ONUCA operation in Central America deserved particular appreciation. Having abandoned its earlier attitude of mistrust towards peace-keeping operations, his country had decided gradually to pay its outstanding contributions towards those operations and to resume its activities in the Special Committee in an observer capacity. It had also begun to take part in the peace-keeping operations themselves. Besides UNTAG, seven Czechoslovak military observers had served with UNAVEM in Angola. Czechoslovakia had also offered to send a civilian observer to the United Nations mission for the monitoring of the electoral process in Nicaragua (ONUVEN) and the offer had been accepted. In the context of the fundamental political and social changes which had taken place in his country since November 1989, his Government intended to take a still more active part in peace-keeping operations. As from the beginning of 1991 it would be ready to send, at the request of the Security Council, a battalion-strength military unit which could be engaged in the peace-keeping operations envisaged in Cambodia or in Western Sahara. His delegation welcomed the successful deliberations within the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations resulting in rational proposals aimed at making wider use of peace-keeping operations and possibly extending them to new areas such as the deployment of United Nations observers on borders endangered by a

(Mr. Nejedly, Czechoslovakia)

conflict between States, the sending of naval forces to crisis areas at sea, providing United Nations troops to assist countries in preventing the transport of drugs, participating in verification of peace or disarmament treaties, etc. His country took a favourable view of the initiative aimed at setting up a Security Council Committee under article 29 of the Charter to assist the Council in the discharge of its duties and in the implementation of individual peace-keeping operations. It was in favour of establishing a system of preparation and training for peace-keeping operations taking advantage of the potentials offered by international co-operation and co-ordination. His delegation took note of the minor organizational shortcomings which had arisen in the initial stages of certain operations, as in the case of UNTAG, especially in connection with vehicles and means of communication. Difficulties of that kind could increase the costs of an operation and his delegation therefore welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to establish a Senior Planning and Monitoring Group for the co-ordination of peace-keeping operations. It also regarded as useful the working out of guidelines and standard operating procedures and welcomed the fact that the Secretariat had begun to prepare lists of units and equipment which Member States could provide.

43. Czechoslovakia was paying close attention to the financial aspects of peace-keeping operations and deemed it extremely important that all States should take seriously their collective responsibility for the financing of such operations. He was convinced that, in the near future, disputes between States would be settled solely by peaceful means, in accordance with the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

44. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that at a historic juncture marked by the end of the cold war and ideological wrangling, the United Nations was emerging as a mechanism for harmonizing the actions of States, while the Security Council was re-establishing itself as the key factor in the maintenance of peace and security, the settlement of disputes and the prevention of conflicts. Such developments were especially important in that the Gulf crisis had served as a reminder that mankind still ran the risk of returning to the era of the politics of aggression. The crisis had dealt a blow to the principles of international law and universally recognized norms of civilized behaviour. However, the severe test which the crisis represented had also strengthened the willingness of States to utilize the potential of the Organization's peace-making activities.

45. The contribution made by the United Nations to the settlement of various regional conflicts was one of the principal elements of the positive dynamics in international relations. That was exemplified by the granting of independence to Namibia, the settlement of the situation in Nicaragua and the efforts to achieve peace in other "hot spots" around the world. In fact, a universal strategy for settling regional conflicts was emerging which involved not only the use of United Nations armed forces, but also a national reconciliation process, free elections, international safeguards, etc. The experience acquired by the Organization in Namibia, Central America and the Middle East showed that the political and practical importance attached to peace-keeping operations had grown considerably.

(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

The recent operations had demonstrated that large military contingents could be used jointly with police and civilian components in order to ensure the implementation of comprehensive peace plans supervised by the United Nations. Of course, the success of the operations in Namibia and elsewhere would have been unthinkable without the collaboration of all parties concerned and the active co-operation of Member States and the Security Council.

46. The new approach to United Nations peace-keeping mechanisms had been described by the President of the Security Council in a statement made on 30 May 1990. The Soviet Union believed that its memorandum entitled "The United Nations in the post-confrontation world" (A/45/626) was in the same vein; it was based on the approach taken by the Soviet Union towards the United Nations and multilateral mechanisms in general and was intended to strengthen their potential for peace-making. In order to take preventive measures, the Security Council must fully assume the role of a mechanism for collective action to avert threats to international peace and security, and the preventive capabilities of the United Nations must be further developed. In order for "hot spots" to be detected sufficiently in advance, consideration should be given to the ideas expressed by the Secretary-General with regard to improving fact-finding mechanisms and maintaining a United Nations presence for preventive purposes in areas of instability. The need to step up United Nations crisis prevention efforts had also been mentioned in a joint statement by the United States and the Soviet Union entitled "Responsibility for Peace and Security in the Changing World" (A/45/598). In order to facilitate preventive diplomacy, it was also necessary to examine the proposals to establish a United Nations war risk reduction centre which could have functional ties with similar structures in different parts of the world. In that context, he considered that regional organizations had a significant role to play in subduing the existing hotbeds of tension and preventing the emergence of new "hot spots".

47. His country welcomed the activities of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations which, at its recent session, had produced a number of recommendations designed to upgrade various elements of the preparations for and conduct of operations. The results obtained should be utilized and those proposals and recommendations should be converted into practical actions. That applied above all to questions such as the setting up of a reserve of United Nations armed forces and military observers, which would make it possible to activate promptly and at minimal cost the forces needed in a crisis situation. The problem of adequate material and technical support for United Nations operations required additional work. His country supported an increase in the number of States which could supply equipment and transportation and other services to the United Nations. The Secretary-General's views on the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of establishing a reserve stockpile of equipment and supplies for peace-keeping activities (A/45/493/Add.1) were a practical step in that direction.

48. His country believed that the time had come to involve the permanent members of the Security Council more actively in peace-keeping operations. That primarily concerned logistical support and the provision of services and possibly of civilian

(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

and military personnel. Such involvement, which would be on a case-by-case basis, could enhance the authority of Security Council decisions and enable a more rapid response to unfolding developments. His country had already stated its readiness to participate more actively in the logistical support of operations. The successful interaction of multinational United Nations forces largely depended on the level of personnel training. It was useful, therefore, to establish international and regional training centres and to conduct regular bilateral exchanges and workshops. His country was already developing such contacts with Finland, Norway and other countries and would continue to do so. In accordance with the recommendations in General Assembly resolution 44/49, his country had organized an international seminar in May 1990 at Moscow on United Nations peace-keeping activities. The concepts and practical ideas which had been put forward during the discussion had been designed to improve United Nations peace-keeping operations in the long run.

49. Currently, the word "peace" was heard more often in an internal than in an international context. The aim of recent United Nations peace-keeping operations had been to solve not only military and political problems but also humanitarian problems and those linked to the holding of elections. The monitoring of elections should not be confined to ballot papers but should include the various stages of the electoral process. An official request from the Government concerned was, naturally, a sine qua non in order for the United Nations to play a monitoring role. United Nations involvement in the electoral process reduced the possibility of interference from certain States and of pressure or unilateral influence. In that context, consideration should be given to the proposal made by President Bush in his speech to the General Assembly concerning the establishment of a post of United Nations co-ordinator, supported by an elections commission, to provide assistance during elections. It would probably be necessary to develop an international instrument stipulating the principles and practice of peace-keeping operations and defining guidelines for their conduct.

50. Another issue which required thorough consideration was the reactivation of the Military Staff Committee, which had recently held unofficial consultations at a very high level. That should not, however, supplant the existing mechanisms for United Nations activities. The Soviet Union remained in favour of the practice whereby the Security Council took decisions on matters of principle and left the Secretary-General an extensive freedom of action. In conclusion, the Soviet delegation considered that the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations should focus its work on a few priority areas in order to enhance the efficiency of United Nations peace-keeping operations. The Special Committee should continue to work on a systematic and regular basis to facilitate the Organization's tasks in the field of peace-keeping. The Soviet delegation hoped that the draft resolution on peace-keeping activities would be adopted by consensus.

51. Mr. MROZIEWICZ (Poland) said that the impressive results achieved by the United Nations in peace-keeping and peace-making during the preceding year were attributable to a variety of factors, among them changes in the international climate and a considerable improvement in relations between the United States and

(Mr. Mroziewicz, Poland)

the Soviet Union and between the East and the West in general. The propitious political climate and the increasing willingness of Member States to take joint action to resolve global problems had opened up new possibilities for the United Nations and its organs to discharge fully their responsibilities under the terms of the Charter. The situation also encouraged Member States to seek solutions to regional conflicts through a mechanism which had proven itself already: peace-keeping operations.

52. The United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) operation in Namibia had established new standards with regard to complexity and effectiveness. The inclusion in the Group of a police component and electoral monitors had considerably expanded the scope of peace-keeping operations which had previously been confined to cease-fire supervision and separation of forces. The increased interest of Member States and the considerable expansion in the number of operations since 1988, as well as the prospect of new operations, particularly in Western Sahara and in Cambodia, had focused the attention of the international community on all aspects of the subject, and in particular on the effectiveness and cost-efficiency of operations. The Special Committee's report (A/45/330) and the other documents presented contained a large number of proposals. The questionnaire which had been prepared by the Secretary-General to assist the rapid establishment of a registry of potential contributions by Member States of personnel, material and technical resources and services was of major importance; Poland had already completed the questionnaire and forwarded it to the Secretary-General. The publication of the updated version of "The Blue Helmets" would also be very useful.

53. With regard to the Special Committee's recommendations and, in particular, the proposals on peace-keeping (A/45/330, appendix), Poland considered that the training of personnel participating in peace-keeping operations was of paramount importance; in 1990 Poland had therefore established a peace-keeping training centre intended for training not only military personnel but civilian personnel as well. The centre had the full capacity to train the military personnel which the Government of Poland was ready to contribute to United Nations peace-keeping operations and observer missions, or a larger contingent if necessary. The training programme was essentially based on the experience acquired by Polish troops which had participated in previous operations, as well as on appropriate United Nations documents and publications on the subject and the experiences shared by other States at seminars. The importance of sharing such experiences was obvious and seminars or working meetings of the representatives of the training staff of various States could be organized periodically, once a year for example, at one of the centres. The United Nations Secretariat could help in co-ordinating such seminars, whose main objective would be to standardize the training programmes. Poland also considered that it would be useful and advisable for a part of the officers' corps of national contingents assigned for duty in peace-keeping operations to be trained at other countries' training centres, on a reciprocal basis.

54. Another important recommendation concerned the role of the United Nations Secretariat. A report prepared by the Secretary-General describing the

(Mr. Mroziewicz, Poland)

responsibilities and structure of the Secretariat units dealing with peace-keeping operations would be very useful. Poland also suggested the establishment, under the auspices of the United Nations, of an international association of former peace-keepers, both military and civilian, who had been awarded the United Nations peace-keeping medal, to be located in one of the countries which had made the largest contribution to operations.

55. Peace-keeping operations, to be succesful, required the unreserved support of the international community, which, to a large degree, depended on the success of the operations currently under way. It was essential, therefore, for those operations to be kept constantly under review to ensure their maximum effectiveness; Poland was ready to join in efforts to achieve that goal and thus contribute to the strengthening of international peace and security.

56. Mrs. AIZPURUA (Panama) welcomed the straightforward and realistic way in which the Special Committee had set out Member States' proposals in document A/45/330. To accomplish such a range of actions would require the collaboration of all Member States and, most importantly, a firm political will. Part E, paragraph (d) referred to the "Use of operations for tasks relating to monitoring of free, fair and democratic elections". In the light of its recent experience in 1989, when the government in power had annulled the results of elections, Panama believed that, at the crucial time of voting, a nation must be able to rely on either the integrity of its rulers or, failing that, the ability of an impartial body to bear witness to the will of the population expressed through the ballot box. The Panamanian delegation hoped that the Committee would give the matter priority consideration.

57. It was important also for the United Nations to be aware of the human and material resources available to it at any one time, in order to be able to intervene rapidly in an emergency. The need to ensure proper training for personnel participating in peace-keeping operations through seminars and scholarships, and to make use of high technology must not be ignored.

58. Mr. SAMMON (Ireland) said that Ireland's views had already been expressed in the statement made by Italy on behalf of the Twelve member States of the European Community but he wished to make some additional comments. Ireland had participated in most of the United Nations peace-keeping operations, most recently in operations in Lebanon, Cyprus, Afghanistan, Iran-Iraq, Central America and Namibia. Ireland at present provided approximately 850 personnel of both sexes, a large number for a country with a population of only three and a half million inhabitants. Thirty-one Irish soldiers had died while serving with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) since its inception in 1978. No one should forget the difficult, often hostile, conditions under which United Nations peace-keeping forces must operate and he saluted those who had given their lives in the cause of peace. Ireland particularly welcomed the statement made by the President of the Security Council on 30 May 1990 and the comments of the Secretary-General relating to peace-keeping operations in his report on the work of the Organization. He likewise welcomed the publication by the Secretariat of the new edition of "The Blue Helmets".

(Mr. Sammon, Ireland)

59. The costs of peace-keeping operations were, by their very nature, the collective responsibility of all Member States. It was vital, not least from the point of view of political credibility, that the financing of peace-keeping operations should be put on a sound basis. Member States that withheld their contributions were in breach of their obligations under the Charter. As at 16 September 1990, there had been an amount outstanding of $46 million in unpaid assessed contributions. Member States must give concrete expression to their support for peace-keeping operations by paying all their assessed contributions, including arrears. The financial situation of UNIFIL was a matter of particular concern, and his delegation urged the countries concerned to pay their arrears as soon as possible. With regard to the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus, he was hopeful that the Security Council would take the necessary action to put it on a proper financial footing.

60. The Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations should, as part of its comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations, continue to address the financial basis of such operations, without, however, duplicating the work of other bodies. Further, with regard to the future work of the Special Committee, in order for it to be able to benefit from the advice of representatives of Governments which had acquired great expertise in the techniques of peace-keeping, the dates for its meetings, once agreed upon, should not be altered.

61. The valuable role which civilian personnel could play in peace-keeping operations had been amply demonstrated in Namibia and Central America, and the experience gained in recent operations, as in Namibia, would enable such operations to be better prepared and brought to a successful conclusion. The two reports prepared by the Secretariat on the use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations (A/45/502) and on standard operating procedures for peace-keeping operations (A/45/602) would be very useful.

62. The consensus attending the establishment of all peace-keeping operations guaranteed their impartiality. That consensus must be reflected in all aspects: financing, command structure, and the make-up of the force. It should not be forgotten that the concept was born of necessity and had been adapted to a variety of conditions. While seeking to improve peace-keeping operations, it was important to continue to build on the sound experience gained over the years in a great variety of circumstances. In that connection, his delegation stressed that all parties to a conflict, and not only host countries, were directly responsible for the safety and security of United Nations peace-keeping forces.

63. The sending of a peace-keeping force to a particular region should be seen as a first step in the resolution of a conflict. Peace-keeping operations were a purely temporary measure designed to facilitate the political process leading to a permanent settlement. The motivation of peace-keeping forces should be beyond question. Every effort must be made at the political level to ensure that the operation attained the intended objective. Proper funding, clear guidance and political will on the part of Member States were essential to ensure that the prestige of peace-keeping was not undermined.

64. Mr. ERI (Papua New Guinea) said that the use of the machinery established by the Security Council pursuant to the provisions of the Charter relating to peace-keeping - peace-keeping operations, good offices, conciliation procedures, etc. - had proved invaluable in a number of crises, conflicts and emergencies.

65. His delegation firmly believed that the valuable innovation of deploying a multinational force as a catalyst for peace had a very big future. Many suggestions had been made as to how to improve the effectiveness of peace-keeping operations. A force comprising contingents from the permanent members of the Security Council would reflect the consensus of the international community and would therefore be far more effective. The only valid basis for international authority in disputes or conflicts was the consensus of the world community and the willingness of all Governments to support that consensus and reflect it in their national policies. Great Power co-operation in practical issues relating to conflict control, such as the establishment of a peace-keeping force, was essential, as was the complementary support of the developing countries.

66. Papua New Guinea, as an aspiring participant in peace-keeping operations, particularly welcomed the reports submitted, notably, the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations (A/45/330) and the reports of the Secretary-General on the requirements for United Nations peace-keeping operations (A/45/217), the use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations (A/45/502) and the model status-of-forces agreement for peace-keeping operations (A/45/594), which reflected the views of countries with experience of peace-keeping operations.

67. His delegation reaffirmed its support for the Secretary-General, whose role as negotiator was becoming increasingly invaluable, particularly in connection with such sensitive questions as Cyprus. While he had not achieved an outright solution of some controversial issues, he had nevertheless fulfilled his mandate.

68. Lastly, he recalled that the use of the good offices of the Secretary-General usually provided parties to a conflict with the best means of effecting a dignified retreat.

69. Mr. KATRA (Lebanon), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of Israel had taken the floor on Wednesday, 21 November 1990, in exercise of his right of reply following a statement made earlier that day by the representative of Lebanon, who had quoted an article from The New York Times of 9 November 1990 which reported that the Israeli Minister of Defence, Mr. Moshe Arens, had made the following statement:

> "Israel will not let the Lebanese Government regain control of the area Israelis claim as a 'security zone' in southern Lebanon, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said today ... and the defense of Israel's nothern border is based on Israeli and South Lebanon Army control of the security zone and the Jezzin area. We are not planning any change whatsoever in the level of this control."

(Mr. Katra, Lebanon)

70. Subsequently, in the absence of the representative of Lebanon, the representative of Israel had taken the floor and denied that the Israeli Minister of Defence had made such a statement.

71. No one could challenge the information provided by the The New York Times, a widely read and internationally respected daily newspaper. Further, everyone was aware of the well known position of the The New York Times with regard to its affinity for Israel.

72. The representative of Israel had also said that Israeli forces would withdraw from southern Lebanon when there was a strong Lebanese Government and army. His delegation recalled that on two occasions, in 1978 and 1979, when the Lebanese Government had planned and decided to deploy units of its army in southern Lebanon, close to United Nations forces, they had been shelled by Israeli forces and prevented from executing their deployment. It was thus surely not possible for the representative of Israel to confuse the members of the Committee by presenting information which was contrary to well-established facts.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE
22nd meeting
held on
Monday, 26 November 1990
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 22nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KARUKUBIRO-KAMUNANWIRE (Uganda)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 75: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 74: UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR FAST (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 73: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (continued)

This record is subject to correction.
Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee

Distr. GENERAL
A/SPC/45/SR.22
3 December 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

90-57355 3273S (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 75: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES (continued) (A/45/84, A/45/306, A/45/576)

1. Mr. KHANI (Syrian Arab Republic) quoted extensively from a letter dated 28 June 1990 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and circulated as an official document of the General Assembly (A/45/333) under agenda item 75, which contained the statement of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic on the Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Syrian Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan and had been presented to the Special Committee during its visit to Damascus, Syria, from 23 May to 5 June 1990. He said that his delegation would have liked to have seen the Israeli violations described and the comments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic contained therein included in the report of the Special Committee (A/45/576).

2. Further to those comments, he said that Israel's rejection of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the specialized agencies constituted a challenge to the international community and world public opinion. The massacre committed by Israel at the Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem on 8 October 1990 was a new phase in Israel's bloody practices in the occupied Arab territories. It was an unprecedented demonstration of Israel's aggressive and terrorist nature as well as of its desecration of both Muslim and Christian holy places, and a challenge to humanitarian and religious values. The detailed information contained in the report showed an escalation of Israel's violations of international and humanitarian law and of Israel's racist and barbarous practices, which had prompted numerous Security Council resolutions, including 605 (1987) and 607 (1988). Since 1948, such Israeli practices had given rise to hundreds of thousands of refugees and immigrants. It should be remembered that Israel had been admitted as a Member of the United Nations on the basis of its undertaking to implement General Assembly resolution 194 (III), which had provided for the return of Palestine refugees to their homes. Israel had similarly refused to allow the return of refugees from the Israeli aggression of 1967, despite the fact that the Security Council had called upon Israel to facilitate their return by its unanimous resolution 237 (1967). International co-operation was needed to prevent Israel's crimes of war and genocide and to relieve the Arab people in the occupied territories from Israel's oppression and tyranny. That should be done by removing the Israeli occupation from all the occupied Arab territories.

3. Mr. AL-SUWAIDI (United Arab Emirates) thanked the members of the Special Committee for their efforts in revealing the truth about Israeli practices, despite Israel's refusal to allow them to visit the occupied Arab territories. He said that their report clearly showed that the repressive measures of the Israeli authorities were flagrant violations of human rights in the occupied territories and crimes against the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza and the Arab citizens in the Syrian Golan Heights, committed despite repeated General Assembly and Security Council resolutions calling upon Israel to abide by the fourth Geneva

(Mr. Al-Suwaidi, United Arab Emirates)

Convention. The inhabitants of the occupied territories were still living under the Israeli "iron fist" policy, which was based on premeditated murder, barbarous torture, collective punishments, closure of schools and universities, obstruction of freedom of movement, destruction of houses and collective administrative detention without trial.

4. The fearless uprising of the Palestinian people was a natural reaction to such practices and expressed the Palestinians' rejection of the occupation and their devotion to their sacred right to an independent State on their national soil. On a daily basis, the Zionist forces burned houses, broke bones and used live ammunition, beatings, electric shocks and tear-gas against helpless inhabitants. Israel's claim to be a democratic State was belied by the heroes of the stones; its practices could only be compared with those of fascism. The world had witnessed the recent repugnant crime of the Israeli forces at the Haram al-Sharif, which had resulted in 21 Palestinian martyrs and hundreds of Palestinians wounded. The documentary film shown in the Security Council had refuted Israeli claims that Muslim religious leaders had incited worshipers to "massacre the Jews". That crime had prompted Security Council resolution 672 (1990) condemning the Israeli acts of violence.

5. The Special Committee's mandate was based on the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the third and fourth Geneva Conventions, the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907 and the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, all of which had been violated by Israel, which claimed that the fourth Geneva Convention did not apply to the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories. International bodies such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Commission of Jurists and the Commission on Human Rights had all upheld the applicability of the fourth Geneva Convention, and every year the General Assembly adopted unanimously (with the exception of Israel) a resolution reaffirming the applicability of that Convention to the occupied territories. Yet Israel persisted in refusing to comply with international legality.

6. The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait had diverted attention from the arbitrary Israeli practices against the Palestinians and the flood of Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel, who were being settled in the occupied territories. His delegation held the Iraqi Government responsible for that additional prejudice to the Palestinians and the Palestinian cause. The oppression in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories was a consequence of their occupation by Israel, whose violations would continue as long as the occupation lasted.

7. Mr. MANSOUR (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that it ill behoved the Syrian representative to speak of Nazi-like crimes when his own Government continued to give asylum to Nazi war criminals. The Syrian Arab Republic itself engaged in the systematic violation of human rights brutal repression, which had led in at least one instance to the loss of tens of thousands of lives, and exceptionally cruel and extreme forms of torture. Israel was engaged in an effort to maintain public order and safety in the territories it occupied, in

(Mr. Mansour, Israel)

the face of hundreds of acts of violence, involving the murder of over 350 people and the injuring of thousands more. Any democratic Government facing such violence was confronted with the dilemma of attempting to maintain public safety while upholding international standards of human rights; Israel took its obligation to maintain those rights very seriously, and was attempting to do so. No such dilemma existed for the Syrian Arab Republic, whose behaviour in Lebanon, which had become a Syrian protectorate, was another example of its brutality. For the Syrian Arab Republic to pose as the protector of the Palestinians was ironic, in view of the fact that the Syrian army had broken the Palestine Liberation Organization in 1976, killing thousands of its members, and that there were still 3,000 Palestinians in Syrian gaols, while many more had died there of torture and ill-treatment. Israel, its people and Government, desired peace and appealed to the Arab countries to begin direct talks in order to open the way to it.

8. Mr. KHANI (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of Israel was seeking to divert attention from his Government's crimes by his references to Syrian actions. Syrian legislation prohibited both torture and arbitrary arrest, and neither was practised in the Syrian Arab Republic. Israeli allegations to the contrary were put forward for political purposes, as was clear from the fact that the Committee on Human Rights had during the past year refused even to consider similar allegations put forward by some organizations. The Syrian Government treated all of its people equally. It was ironic that Israel should refer to Syrian actions in Lebanon; those actions had in fact put an end to civil war and factional fighting in Lebanon at the cost of many Syrian casualties. What disturbed Israel was not the violation of civil rights but the prospect that the restoration of legitimate authority in Lebanon would lead to the expulsion of Israel from south Lebanon. The Prime Minister of Israel had said recently that it was his Government's duty to preserve the land of Israel from Jordan to the Mediterranean for future generations. Israel was refusing to obey the General Assembly's resolutions, as it had always done, because it thought only of expansion and aggression. The Syrian Arab Republic favoured a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on the implementation of all the resolutions of the United Nations on the subject.

9. Mr. MANSOUR (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Syrian Arab Republic's intentions with respect to Lebanon were clear from the fact that its President had long claimed that all of the territory formerly under French mandate, including Lebanon, should be a part of the Syrian Arab Republic. More than 750 people had been killed in the recent suppression by the Syrian Arab Republic of the opposition to Syrian rule in Lebanon.

10. Mr. KATRA (Lebanon), speaking on a point of order, said that the discussion seemed to be going far beyond the agenda item before the Committee; speakers should be asked to confine themselves to that subject.

11. Mr. KHANI (Syrian Arab Republic) agreed with the Lebanese representative that the discussion should be restricted to the subject before the Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 74: UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (continued) (A/SPC/45/L.5, L.6*, L.7, L.18, L.19, L.20, L.21, L.22, L.23/Rev.1, L.24 and L.25)

12. Mr. SNOOK (United States of America), introducing the draft resolution on assistance to Palestinian refugees (A/SPC/45/L.5), commended the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for its response to the emergency needs of refugees affected by the violence in Lebanon and the continuing unrest in the occupied territories. Strong financial support from the international community was needed to enable UNRWA to carry out its humanitarian mission, and his delegation urged other countries to donate generously.

13. Mr. BAS BACKER (Netherlands), introduced, on behalf of its sponsors, the draft resolution entitled "Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East" (A/SPC/45/L.6), and appealed to Member States to respond to the requests of the Commissioner-General and the Working Group to help solve UNRWA's financial problems and ensure the continuity of its assistance.

14. Mr. LIDEN (Sweden) introduced the draft resolution on "Assistance to persons displaced as the result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities" (A/SPC/45/L.7) and expressed confidence that it would be approved by consensus, as in previous years.

15. Mr. HANNAN (Bangladesh), introducing draft resolutions A/SPC/45/L.18, L.21, L.22 and L.24, said that his delegation had always placed great value on the important work of UNRWA in providing educational, health and relief services to Palestine refugees. He briefly outlined the main points of each of the resolutions, entitled "Offers by Member States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for Palestine refugees", "Return of population and refugees displaced since 1967", "Revenues derived from Palestine refugees' properties" and "University of Jerusalem 'Al-Quds' for Palestine Refugees", respectively. He and the other sponsors expected that the resolutions would receive the overwhelming support of the Committee.

16. Mr. GARDEZI (Pakistan), introducing draft resolutions A/SPC/45/L.19, L.20 and L.25, briefly described the main provisions of the first two resolutions, entitled "Palestine refugees in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967" and "Resumption of the ration distribution to Palestine refugees", respectively. He then noted that draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.25, "Protection of Palestinian students and educational institutions and safeguarding of the security of the facilities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in the occupied Palestinian territory", reflected the shocking conditions under which UNRWA was being forced to function due to the oppressive policies of the Israeli authorities, which included raids on UNRWA installations, the closing of UNRWA schools for prolonged periods and the killing and wounding of students in and outside UNRWA schools. The sponsors hoped that the three draft resolutions would receive the overwhelming support of the Committee at a time when the situation in the occupied territories had deteriorated considerably. The unequivocal and

(Mr. Gardezi, Pakistan)

comprehensive assistance of the international community was necessary so that UNRWA could help to alleviate the sufferings of millions of Palestine refugees.

17. Mr. YOUSIF (Sudan), introducing draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.23/Rev.1, "Protection of Palestine refugees", said that it was basically identical to draft resolution A/SPC/44/L.15 and Corr.1, which the Committee had adopted by an overwhelming majority the previous year. He outlined the changes which had been made to the current year's draft resolution, including the deletion of a paragraph on the sovereignty and integrity of Lebanon owing to recent positive developments in that country, the addition of a new operative paragraph (para. 5) and the use of stronger language in paragraph 6. All of the available information had clearly established that there was a marked deterioration in the security situation of the Palestine refugees as a result of the acts which Israel continued to perpetrate against the refugees and against UNRWA employees, and that Israel continued to disregard the will of the international community. The circumstances which had led to the adoption of the draft resolution the previous year had worsened, as evidenced by the October 1990 massacre at the Haram al-Sharif, and the sponsors therefore urged the Committee to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

18. Mr. SNOOK (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that his Government strongly supported UNRWA and its vital humanitarian programmes, as reaffirmed by its sponsorship of the resolution on assistance to Palestine refugees (A/SPC/45/L.5). His delegation also joined the consensus regarding draft resolutions A/SPC/45/L.6 and L.7. Regrettably, however, many of the other resolutions submitted under that item were highly politicized, containing sweeping, unbalanced criticism of Israel's treatment of refugees, or making proposals that his Government considered financially unsound, making no practical contribution to UNRWA's objectives and only serving to exacerbate tensions. His Government supported the practical approach to meeting the needs of refugees for higher education as found in draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.18. It had reservations, however, regarding the proposed University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds".

19. His delegation could not support draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.19, "Palestine refugees in the occupied Palestinian territory". That resolution referred to an "inalienable right of return" while making no reference to negotiations for a comprehensive and lasting peace among the concerned parties, which would be necessary to resolve the underlying issues. The Commissioner-General should retain the authority to administer UNRWA's programmes with regard to such matters as issuance of identification cards without outside interference. His Government opposed such measures as the destruction of dwellings in the occupied territories but would not object in principle to the concept of voluntary relocation of refugees. The United States had traditionally opposed "resumption of the ration distribution to Palestine refugees" (A/SPC/45/L.20) because, again, it attempted to usurp the authority of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA.

20. His delegation objected to draft resolutions A/SPC/45/L.21 and L.22 on the grounds that they made no reference to necessary direct negotiations among all parties concerned.

(Mr. Snook, United States)

21. With regard to draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.23, "Protection of Palestine refugees", his Government believed that Israel, as the occupying Power in the West Bank and Gaza, had the authority and responsibility to maintain security in that area and must carry out those obligations in strict accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Convention of 1949.

22. Though it strongly supported practical efforts designed to promote higher educational opportunities for Palestinian refugees, his delegation opposed draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.24, "University of Jerusalem 'Al-Quds' for Palestine Refugees" as an unreasonable and unworkable approach to the problem. It would also vote against draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.25, despite its concern over school closures and disruption of UNRWA's activities in the West Bank and Gaza, because of its harsh condemnation of Israel. His Government had repeatedly made it clear that it would not support such extreme and unbalanced resolutions.

23. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.5.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Israel.

24. The draft resolution was adopted by 123 votes to none, with one abstention.

25. The CHAIRMAN, referring to the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.6, informed the Committee that, according to the Programme Planning and Budget Division, the assistance necessary for the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA to conduct its work would entail the servicing of 10 one-day meetings of the Working Group in 1991, and no additional cost would arise. It was his understanding that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

26. Draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.6 was adopted without a vote.

27. The CHAIRMAN said that it was his understanding that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.7 without a vote.

28. Draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.7 was adopted without a vote.

29. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.18.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Israel.

30. Draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.18 was adopted by 122 votes to none, with one abstention.

31. The CHAIRMAN, referring to the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.19, informed the Committee that, according to the Programme Planning and Budget Division, the Secretary-General had indicated that he was unable to comply with the request contained in paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 44/47 E. All refugee families currently registered with UNRWA received registration cards issued by that Agency; however, the Commissioner-General did not have the means to issue identity cards. Should the draft resolution be adopted, the Secretary-General would keep the situation under review regarding appropriate documentation of the registration status of individual members of refugee families.

32. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.19.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: None.

33. Draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.19 was adopted by 121 votes to 2, with no abstentions.

34. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.20.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Poland, Romania, Spain.

35. Draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.20 was adopted by 93 votes to 20, with 9 abstentions.

36. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.21.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

37. Draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.21 was adopted by 96 votes to 2, with 25 abstentions.

38. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.22

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

39. Draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.22 was adopted by 95 votes to 2, with 26 abstentions.

40. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.23/Rev.1 as orally revised.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: None.

41. Draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.23/Rev.1 as orally revised was adopted by 120 votes to 2, with no abstentions.

42. The CHAIRMAN, referring to the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.24, informed the Committee that, according to information provided by the Programme Planning and Budget Division, the functional feasibility study on the proposed University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds" had not been completed as planned. Thus, the Secretary-General was not in a position to foresee related programme budget implications. Should the situation change during 1991, he would initiate action under the provisions of the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses in the biennium 1990-1991.

43. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.24.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: None.

44. Draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.24 was adopted by 121 votes to 2, with no abstentions.

45. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.25.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania,

Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: None.

46. Draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.25 was adopted by 121 votes to 2, with no abstentions.

47. Mr. D'ELIA (Italy), speaking in explanation of vote on behalf of the 12 members of the European Community, reaffirmed the full support of the Twelve for the work of UNRWA and the vital services it provided to Palestine refugees, though in some cases they had not been able to vote in favour of resolutions just adopted. The Twelve shared the deep concern voiced by the Commissioner-General with regard to the financial uncertainties of UNRWA operations, particularly emergency aid. While they supported in principle the development of the various services UNRWA could provide for Palestine refugees, they wondered about the advisability of confronting the Commissioner-General with unrealistic demands.

48. Mr. AMIN-MANSOUR (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his delegation had voted in favour of all resolutions relating to agenda item 74, as they could only help to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people. The ultimate solution, however, would lie in the restoration of their right to self-determination and the establishment of a Palestinian State.

49. Mr. FREUDENSCHUSS (Austria) said that Austria had voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.19 on the understanding that paragraphs 2 and 3 would be considered in the light of the means available to the Agency and the actual possibilities of compliance with those requests.

50. Mr. SMERAL (Czechoslovakia) said that his delegation had voted in favour of most of the draft resolutions in order to emphasize its support for the work of UNRWA. Nevertheless, it had abstained in the vote on draft resolutions A/SPC/45/L.20, L.21 and L.22. His delegation felt that the ration distribution discussed in A/SPC/45/L.20 was no longer necessary. As regarded A/SPC/45/L.21 and L.22, the complicated repatriation and property questions contained therein would be better addressed in a different forum.

51. Mr. POPESCU (Romania) said that his delegation had not voted in favour of some of the draft resolutions considered, but not because of lack of support for the commendable efforts of UNRWA. Owing to its critical financial situation, UNRWA should focus on its most vital programmes. He hoped that in the new international climate, a more realistic solution to the Middle East problem could be promoted, and that the deadlock which had existed for many years might be broken.

52. Mr. INBAR (Israel) said that his Government welcomed the humanitarian assistance given through UNRWA to refugees. In addition, between 1 July 1989 and 1 July 1990, his Government had contributed over $20 million towards education, welfare, health and housing for Palestine refugees and had made many good-will gestures, such as the release of detainees, the opening of schools and assistance with agricultural exports. In addition, Israel was accepting large numbers of Palestinians fleeing Kuwait and Iraq. The draft resolutions just adopted were political in nature and based on assumptions and prejudices. Regarding the destruction of Palestinians' houses, there was no deliberate policy in that regard. Legal procedures had been followed, and the owners had been found guilty of terrorist activity.

53. Regarding the University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds", before 1967 there had been no single functioning university in Judea, Samaria or Gaza. Since then, six had been established, all enjoying academic freedom.

54. Draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.25 addressed Israeli raids on UNRWA installations. However, the Agency was employing residents of the occupied territories who had been sentenced for security violations. The Palestinian people was taking advantage of the Agency and exploiting it to further its political goals.

55. Mr. MANSOUR (Observer for Palestine), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, thanked the delegates who had voted in favour of the draft resolutions. Although the representative of Israel had insisted on reopening a debate that had been closed some time earlier, he had not convinced any of the delegations of the accuracy of his arguments. Only Israel and the United States of America had voted against draft resolutions A/SPC/45/L.23/Rev.1 and L.25, which meant that none of the other delegations had been persuaded to change their position. He hoped that the Israeli Government would heed the call of the international community and implement all 11 resolutions. In particular, the solution of the problem of Palestine refugees depended on the implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III), as indicated in paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.5. Since no delegation had voted against that draft resolution, he hoped that it would be implemented in the course of the current year and that, by allowing the reintegration of Palestine refugees, the Israeli Government would eliminate one aspect of the tragedy of the Palestinian people.

56. Mr. KATRA (Lebanon), speaking on behalf of the Arab Group of the Whole, thanked all those who had collaborated on the current year's draft resolutions.

AGENDA ITEM 73: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (continued) (A/SPC/45/L.17)

57. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that, with regard to draft resolution A/SPC/45/L.17, the Programme Planning and Budget Division did not anticipate any programme budget implications arising from the adoption of that resolution. Provision had been made under the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, inter alia, for substantive support of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, and its subsidiary

(The Chairman)

bodies, training activities, international technical studies, and space information services, as well as for substantive and Secretariat support of the Legal Sub-Committee of COPUOS, its working groups and its ad hoc working groups. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote.

58. It was so decided.

59. The CHAIRMAN said that during the Special Political Committee's deliberations, several delegations had expressed interest concerning membership in COPUOS. Further consultations on the matter were needed because of the requirement for balanced geographical distribution of the membership of that Committee. In addition, he noted that the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic would fill the seat in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space which had been vacated as a result of the accession of the German Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Special Political Committee took note of that change.

60. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.